

Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 020700Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9423
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT PASS PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON IF DESIRED

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MY, VN
SUBJ: "NEW STRAITS TIMES" EDITORIAL ON VIETNAM

1. INFLUENTIAL K.L. DAILY "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST), WHICH
NORMALLY REFLECTS GOM'S FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS, LINKED "VIETNAM'S
AGONY" TO HIGH EXPECTATIONS RESULTING FROM PRESIDENT NIXON'S
VISIT TO CHINA IN 1972 OF U.S. - CHINA RAPPROCHEMENT. NST
EDITORIAL APRIL 1 CONTINUED THAT, SHORTLY AFTER CHINA VISIT,
EXPECTATIONS FOR PEACE IN INDOCHINA, ENCOURAGED BY PARIS
PEACE TALKS, WERE DASHED BY NORTH VIETNAM'S LARGE-SCALE
MILITARY INVASION OF THE SOUTH, STEMMED ONLY BY
U.S. "MASSIVE AIR OFFENSIVE WHICH TORE APART VITAL COMMUNIST
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TRAFFIC ARTERIES, DAMAGED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AND BOMBED

THE RAILWAY UP TO THE BORDERS OF CHINA." HOWEVER, NST SAID,
"THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN."

2. SINCE "HALF-BAKED PARIS ACCORDS IN 1973, NST CONTINUED,
"CONTINUAL VIOLATIONS OF EVERY AGREEMENT" BY NORTH VIETNAM
HAVE BEEN MET BY "THE WEAKENING OF EVERY AMERICAN COMMITMENT
AS THE U.S. CONGRESS WASHED ITS HANDS." CURRENT NORTH
VIETNAMESE ASSAULTS HAVE "SHAKEN" THE U.S. AND THE REST OF THE
NON-COMMUNIST WORLD "INTO FULL REALIZATION OF THE BETRAYAL,
THE SKILFULLY APPLIED STRATEGY OF AGGRESSION" AND THE "SUDDEN
CONVERSION" OF THE VIETCONG IN CALLING FOR PEACE "NEGOTIATIONS"
NOW THAT SOUTH VIETNAM IS DEMORALIZED BY SWEEPING COMMUNIST
SUCCESSES. HOWEVER, NST SAID, "SAIGON'S COURAGE HAS NOT
EVAPORATED, IT IS DEFENDED BY SOUTH VIETNAM'S FINEST TROOPS...
AND THE MONSOON BECOMES THEIR ALLY IN ANOTHER FIVE WEEKS."

3. NST REASONED THAT THE MARCH 31 OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS BY THE VIET-
CONG WILL TEST SOUTH VIETNAM'S MORALE WHICH HAS BEEN
"UNDERMINED AT LEAST AS MUCH BY CORRUPTION AND ADMINISTRA-
TIVE EFFICIENCY AS THE SHOCK OF MILITARY COLLAPSE IN THE
NORTH." ACCORDING TO NST, THE COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE
LON NOL GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA "WUITE POSSIBLY HAS ALREADY
SUCCEEDED."

4. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT LON NOL, IN PARTICULAR, HAS NO
"EXPECTATION OF WINNING AMERICAN OR ANY OTHER SUPPORT THAT
COULD REVERSE THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND PHNOM PENH.
CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE TO THE COMMUNISTS IS ENDING. SAIGON'S
TRIALS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN."

5. BEGIN LOU: COMMENT: NST EDITORIAL SUMMARIZED ABOVE
INDICATES INABILITY OF GOM, NOT TO MENTION PAPER'S EDITORIAL
WRITERS, TO RECONCILE THEIR GUT ANTI-COMMUNISM WITH FEELING
THAT INDOCHINA IS ALL BUT LOST. INITIALLY A SUPPORTER OF
THE GVN, MALAYSIA HAS SINCE 1971 TURNED TO NON-ALIGNMENT
AND A WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH COMMUNIST REGIMES AS, AMONG
OTHER THINGS, A MEANS OF INSULATING ITSELF FROM INDOCHINA'S
PROBLEMS, BUT MALAYSIA'S WORST FEARS ARE NOW BEING REALIZED
ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. (FULL
ANALYSIS OF MALAYSIAN PERCEPTIONS FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.)
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UNDERHILL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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